

18 August 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary
National Security Council

SUBJECT : NSC Status Report on Foreign Intelligence Program
and Special Report on Comparable Data Regarding USSR

1. Attached you will find two copies of the annual NSC Status Report on the Foreign Intelligence Program, together with a special study on Comparable Data for the USSR, as requested by you. The former has been prepared by the Director, in consultation with the Intelligence Advisory Committee. The latter has been prepared within CIA, from the sources stated in the footnote.

2. The Director and some individual members of the IAC have expressed doubt whether the Status Report in its present form serves a useful purpose in conveying to high-level policy makers, anything they do not get from other sources. It may be that other contributors to the overall project have similar doubts, and that a Planning Board discussion of the utility of the operation would serve a useful purpose before the next scheduled reporting date.

3. Our doubts are even stronger as to the utility of the Comparable Data report. Estimates on the Soviet Bloc have now become so full and exhaustive (e.g., NIE 11-5-54 and the pending NIE 11-4-54) that this report now substantially duplicates estimates that reach the same people through other channels. Moreover, as you are well aware, any attempt to make comparisons of this sort is full of pitfalls. Therefore, Mr. Ansky asked that special consideration be given to the possibility of dropping this report.

WILLIAM P. BURNEY
Special Assistant/DDI

Attachments

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Approved For Release 2003/04/18 : CIA-RDP80B01676R001100070006-9

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION		REGISTRY
SOURCE	SA/DDI	CIA CONTROL NO.
DOC. NO.		102913
DOC. DATE	18 Aug. 1954	DATE DOCUMENT RECEIVED
COPY NO.	0 copies of 6	18 August 1954
NUMBER OF PAGES	1	LOGGED BY
NUMBER OF ATTACHMENTS		EMC
None		

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